

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
<https://ceqasubmit.opr.ca.gov/>

Kern County Clerk

1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639

From: City of Ridgecrest
Department of Public Works
100 W. California Avenue
<https://www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/194/Public-Works>

Terry Roberts, Director of Public Works/DBE
Liaison Officer
troberts@ridgecrest-ca.gov

Project Title: City of Ridgecrest Las Flores Avenue HAWK (State Project Number HSIPSL-5385(078))

Project Location: Intersection of Las Flores Avenue at Sierra View Street; Intersection of Graaf Avenue at Alene Avenue

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries: See attached project description.

Public Agency Approving Project: City of Ridgecrest

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Ridgecrest

This is to advise that the City of Ridgecrest has approved the above described project on August 12, 2026, and has made the determination that the project is exempt because:

Exempt Status (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (§ 21080 (b) (1); § 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§ 21080 (b) (3); § 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§ 21080 (B) (4); § 15269(b) (c))
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: Class 1: Repair/Maintenance of Existing Streets and Highways (CEQA Guidelines § 15301(c))
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (§ _____)

Reason(s) why project is exempt: The project would be limited to re-construction and minor construction within City right-of-way. No new lanes would be added. See Project Description below.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Terry Roberts, Director of Public Works; troberts@ridgecrest-ca.gov

Signature: Terry Roberts Digitally signed by Terry Roberts
DN: cn=Terry Roberts, c=US, o=City of Ridgecrest,
email=troberts@ridgecrest-ca.gov
Date: 2026.08.12 07:49:15 -07'00' Date: 8/12/26

Project Description:

Description: The proposed project consists of pedestrian safety improvements at two existing intersections within the City of Ridgecrest, California. Improvements are intended to enhance pedestrian visibility and safety and reduce the potential for pedestrian-vehicle conflicts.

At the intersection of Las Flores Avenue and Sierra View Street, the project includes installation of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB/HAWK signal). The intersection is directly adjacent to Las Flores Elementary School and several residences. Construction activities would occur within the existing public right-of-way and include minor roadway paving, curb ramp reconstruction to improve accessibility, median construction, installation of traffic signal equipment, associated wiring and conduit, and roadway signing and striping. Existing asphalt pavement would be removed and re-compacted with asphalt rubber hot mix over approximately four inches of asphalt base. No roadway widening is proposed. Construction limits at this intersection extend approximately 200 feet along each approach of Las Flores Avenue and approximately 50 feet into Sierra View Street.

At the intersection of Graaf Avenue and Alene Avenue, the project includes installation of an overhead pedestrian warning assembly, consisting of a flashing pedestrian sign and rapid rectangular flashing beacons (RRFBs). The intersection is adjacent to a parking lot and several residences. Work would include installation of traffic signal equipment and related hardware necessary to support the overhead pedestrian warning system. All improvements would occur within the existing roadway and right-of-way. Construction limits at this intersection extend approximately 50 feet from each approach.

The project would not introduce new land uses, increase roadway capacity, or alter traffic patterns beyond improving pedestrian safety. The proposed improvements are consistent with the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), which is intended to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on public roadways. The Las Flores Avenue and Sierra View Street improvements are funded through Caltrans HSIP Cycle 12, while the Graaf Avenue and Alene Avenue improvements are funded through local sources.

There are no mapped hazardous waste incidents or facilities, including leaking underground storage tanks, in the project vicinity. (Calif. RWCB Geotracker, available at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>; U.S. EPA Cleanups in My Community maps, available at <https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>; California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control maps, available at <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>, accessed February 2026).

Setting: The project intersections are located within developed areas. There is no natural habitat within or immediately adjacent to the project boundaries.

Beneficiaries: Ridgecrest pedestrians will benefit from improved safety at the intersections, reducing fatalities and serious injuries on the public roads.

3